

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1-3, and 10-12 amended. Claims 1-12 are pending and under consideration.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,842,737 to Stiles et al. (hereinafter "Stiles") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,662,195 to Langseth et al. ("Langseth").

The Office Action submitted that Stiles does not teach that "travel progress [is] determined from a travel schedule which includes at least one of travel ticket usage information, replacement ticket information and coupon usage."¹ but relied on Langseth to cure this deficiency. Specifically, the following paragraph of Langseth (reproduced in its entirety) is indicated as providing relevant teachings:

In a travel channel, one or more of the following services may be provided: personalized travel services, your reservation reminder, your ticket status, the fare watch, travel agency locator, electronic mapper, weather update, electronic ticket postman, frequent flier update/miles collected, currency converter, vacation watch, hotels of the date that suite your travel needs, best cruises available, best ski trips, adventure travel services, customs and duties report for countries, children travel report, travel health information service, international cost of living calculator, appropriate destinations for appropriate times, seat locator, ticket purchase alert, flight cancellation alert, reservation cancellation alert, visa alert, and good fare alert. When signing up for one or more of these services, information regarding type of travel preferred for business and vacation, frequently visited cities, airline preferences, hotel preferences, budget parameters, kinds of vacations, type of food, car rental agency preferences, travel time preferences, travel day preferences, cuisine preferences, and travel companions. Terminal device, etc. may also be personalized as described herein.

Langseth discloses a highly personalized information providing service in which information provided to a customer is updated so that depending on the categories for which a client sign up he may receive "alerts" such as ticket purchase alert, flight cancellation alert, reservation cancellation alert, visa alert, and good fare alert. However, what information is provided to the customer is not updated based on the travel progress determined from the types

¹ See the Office Action mailed on December 12, 2006, page 3 lines 2-4.

of information specified in claim 1. The personalized alerts are not related to the travel progress. For example, if a traveler misses a connection or changes his route and therefore arrives in another city than the one designated in an initial travel plan, Langseth's personalized information providing service will continue to provide information according to the initial itinerary, while according to claim 1 the scope of the provided information is updated based on travel ticket usage information, replacement ticket information or coupon usage. In other words, Langseth teaches updating the information temporarily, while claim 1 recites updating the scope of the information (i.e. WHAT information) is provided based on the travel progress. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Langseth fails to cure the deficiency of Stiles in teaching all the features of independent claim 1.

In view of the comments included in the Advisory Action, Applicants amend independent claim 1 to clarify that the "travel progress information [is] based on actions of the given person." In view of this clarification, Applicants respectfully submit that Langseth discloses a status of the ticket, flight cancellation or reservation cancellation which occur due to external factors not due to actions of the traveler ("given person").

Therefore, claim 1 which is directed to an information broadcasting method, patentably distinguishes over the cited prior art at least because Stiles and Langseth alone or in combination fail to teach or suggest

automatically broadcasting to one or more information terminals and at least one communication address for said given person, pre-registered advertising information or reference information in connection with dates and times, and/or places according to the given person's itinerary and travel progress determined from a travel schedule which is updated using travel progress information based on actions of the given person, the travel progress information including at least one of travel ticket usage information, replacement ticket information, and coupon usage information.

Claim 2 which is directed to an information broadcasting method for broadcasting information in connection with travel destinations to travelers, patentably distinguishes over the cited prior art at least because Stiles and Langseth alone or in combination fail to teach or suggest

matching the broadcasting prerequisites for the relevant information with the travel schedules, extracting travelers who meet the broadcasting prerequisites, and broadcasting the relevant information to the extracted travelers' communications addresses according to travel progress of the extracted travelers determined from travel progress information based on actions of the extracted travelers, the travel progress information including at

least one of travel ticket usage information, replacement ticket information, and coupon usage information.

Claim 3 which is directed to an information broadcasting method for broadcasting information from travel service providers, patentably distinguishes over the cited prior art at least because Stiles and Langseth alone or in combination fail to teach or suggest

broadcasting at predetermined times said relevant information to the communications addresses for the extracted travelers, the predetermined times being determined from travel progress information based on actions of the extracted travelers, the travel progress information including at least one of travel ticket usage information, replacement ticket information, and coupon usage information.

Claims 4-9 depending directly or indirectly from claim 3, are also patentable at least by inheriting patentable features from claim 3.

Claim 10 which is directed to an information broadcasting device, patentably distinguishes over the cited prior art at least because Stiles and Langseth alone or in combination fail to teach or suggest

broadcasting means for broadcasting at predetermined times said relevant information to the communications addresses for the extracted travelers, broadcasting means adjusting the predetermined times based on travel progress information based on actions of the extracted travelers, the travel progress information including at least one of travel ticket usage information, replacement ticket information, and coupon usage information.

Claim 11 which is directed to an information broadcasting method, patentably distinguishes over the cited prior art at least because Stiles and Langseth alone or in combination fail to teach or suggest

broadcasting at predetermined times which are correlated with the travel-plan schedules, the advertisements to communications addresses for the travelers participating in the travel plans wherein the predetermined times are adjusted based on travel progress information based on actions of the travelers, the travel progress information including at least one of travel ticket usage information, replacement ticket information, and coupon usage information.

Claim 12 which is directed to a computer-readable recording medium on which is recorded a program for executing an advertisement broadcasting method, patentably distinguishes over the cited prior art at least because Stiles and Langseth alone or in combination fail to teach or suggest

sending advertising data to the specified travelers, in accordance with the travel schedules, wherein the travel schedules are

updated using travel progress information based on actions of the travelers, the travel progress information including at least one of travel ticket usage information, replacement ticket information, and coupon usage information.

Additionally to failing to teach or suggest all the elements of the claims, Applicants respectfully traverse the obviousness rejection based on Stiles and Langseth because there is insufficient evidence for a motivation to modify Stiles' method by incorporating Lanseth's information updating.²

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.\

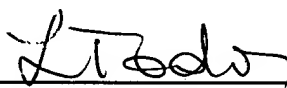
If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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By: 
Luminita A. Todor
Registration No. 57,639

1201 New York Ave, N.W., 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501

² See MPEP 2143.01 stating "[o]bviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teaching of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art," (citations omitted). See also MPEP 2144.08 III stating that "[e]xplicit findings on motivation or suggestion to select the claimed invention should also be articulated in order to support a 35 U.S.C. 103 ground of rejection. . . Conclusory statements of similarity or motivation, without any articulated rational or evidentiary support, do not constitute sufficient factual findings."